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DRAFT MEMORANDUM

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TO: IO - Joseph J. Sisco
FROM: UNP - Elizabeth Ann Brown -

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Future of the TTPI. INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

3/16/67
725-67

Because of your extended absence, I thought you would appreciate being brought up to date on what has taken place in our negotiations with Interior in trying to arrive at ~~Administrative~~ ^{an} administrative position on the future of the TTPI. You will recall that we reached agreement ^{the spring} with Interior and Defense on the wording of a proposed Joint Resolution to establish a Presidential Commission to make recommendations on the future political status of the TTPI. We believed that as a result of Mr. Katzenbach's meeting with Secretary Luce on April 10, ~~that~~ there was State-Interior agreement that the proposed Commission would be informed of the restraints within which they could frame recommendations which could be implemented and ^{thru} achieve US policy aims ^(NSAM 145) of terminating the Trusteeship Agreement and bringing the Territory into a new and lasting relationship with the US. ^{TP} On May 24, Representative Bingham introduced a ~~bill~~ Joint Resolution to establish a Commission to study the future political status of the TTPI. Congressman Aspinall requested the comments of State, Interior and Defense on this bill. In our ^{response} reply, we applauded the aims of the Bingham bill but pointed out the

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necessity that the Commission realize the constraints within which they would have to operate. Interior prepared a memorandum to the President requesting authorization to transmit to the Congress the Joint Resolution agreed upon by State, Interior and Defense. After receiving White House authorization for this ^{action} ~~move~~, Interior planned to inform Congressman Aspinall by letter of their preference for the State, Interior Joint Resolution over the resolution introduced by Representative Bingham. Interior requested State and Defence concurrence in their proposed memorandum to the President. Defense concurred. ^{TP} Mr. Katzenbach sent a letter on July 5 to Under Secretary Luce declaring that State could not concur in the proposed memorandum to the President because Interior implied that there was latitude in the Trusteeship Agreement to offer Micronesians a non-self-governing US territorial status. Mr. Katzenbach made very clear our position that such an action would violate Article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement. In its draft memorandum Interior also stated its belief that the Micronesians were not ready for self-government and that Congress would not permit an elected Governor within the next several years. ^{TP} On July 12, Bill Gleysteen met with Mrs. Van Cleve to attempt to draft appropriate language for a mutually acceptable memorandum to the President.

It was soon apparent that Interior was unwilling to consider extensive revisions in their memorandum which would have been necessary to reflect the full extent of ^{the} disagreement between State and Interior. It was decided that Interior would send forward its memorandum to the President, which it did on July 14, with minor modifications and with a notation that while Defense concurred, the Department of State did not and would submit its views separately.

UNP then drafted a memorandum to the President which recommended that the President ask Walt Rostow to meet urgently with senior officials of State, Interior and Defense to work out a clearly agreed ^{discussion} definition of responsibility in order to prevent the ^{several} Departments from ^{taking} taken mutually inconsistent positions in House Interior Committee hearings on the political future of the TTPI to be held July 26. Mr. Katzenbach decided not to send the memorandum to the President but rather to put the issue into the SIG channel. By this procedure he would ^{ask} the Chairman ^{of} ^{the} SIG ~~to~~ rule in favor of the State position and ^{thus} enforce Interior to ^{either acquiesce or to request the President to overrule the} ~~make known their dissent to the~~ ^{Chairman} ~~President.~~ When Mr. Katzenbach informed Secretary Udall on this procedure on July 17, Udall suggested that they have a meeting to attempt to work out their differences.

Accordingly, Mr. Katzenbach met with Secretary Udall and Mrs. Van Cleve on July 19 to explain once again State's position. Secretary Udall stated that he understood clearly the position of the State Department and accepted our view that the Trusteeship Agreement could only be terminated by offering Micronesians some form of self-government or independence. Further, Secretary Udall agreed to carry the ball on this position for the Administration and to present the Administration's position in the ^{most} ~~more~~ positive light when he appears before a closed session of the House Interior Committee on July 26. *only Secretary Udall*

~~Udall~~ has been requested to appear before the Interior Committee on July 26. I understand that he will make a short three to four page statement. In this statement, a copy of which we are endeavoring to get before the hearing, Secretary Udall will, ~~I understand that Secretary Udall will~~ avoid, if possible, making a statement on the exact future status of the TTPI and indicating whether Micronesians will be ready for self-government within five years. After this initial session on July 26, the Committee will turn the bill over ^{to} the Subcommittee on Interior and Insular Affairs who will hold hearings, possibly in August, at which time State and Defense will also be called upon to testify.

Senator M. Hoffeld has, within the last few days,

introduced a bill to establish a Commission to study the future of the TTPI. We understand that this bill was ghost written by Interior and is similar to the Bingham bill in that it calls for the Commission to investigate the ways in which the wishes of the Micronesians concerning their future political status can be ~~ascertained~~ ^{ascertained} and to make recommendations for ascertaining these wishes and for implementing the wishes when known.

In a meeting held at the Bureau of the Budget on July 24, with Representatives of State, Interior and Defense present, it was decided that Interior would draft a letter to be sent to Speaker McCormick from Secretary Udall transmitting the State-Interior-Defense Joint Resolution. State and Defense would clear the Interior letter. Interior would also prepare a draft letter by which the President would transmit the Udall letter to Speaker McCormick.

